

# Town of Westford

## Representative Town Government Meeting Study Committee



*Westford 2000  
A Peaceable Community*

Date: Tuesday, February 20, 2008

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Millennium, Room 4

Attendees: John Cunningham (Member), Buffie Diercks (Member),  
George Murray (Chair), Robert Phillips (Secretary) ,  
Bob Price (Member), Anita Scheiper (Guest),  
Valerie Wormell (BoS Representative).

### Discussions with Anita Scheiper

The committee conducted an interview with Anita Scheiper, Assistant Town Administrator of Lincoln, MA (population ~ 6000). Ms. Scheiper has had considerable experience in municipal governance in several communities – Ayer, Boylston, and Lincoln – all of which have an open town meeting form of government and has served as a Selectman in Bolton. She provided a number of practical steps that have improved town meeting participation.

### “Real Democracy”

Murray discussed this book (written by Frank Bryan). It is a study by a professor from the University of Vermont of thousands of town meetings. Regarding town meeting participation, Bryan suggests it is mostly a function of town size, with participation dropping off for larger towns.

### Future Interviews

Murray has arranged to have Donna VanderClock of Weston attend our next meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Fleckner will invite Al Tosti of Arlington to a later meeting. Wormell agreed to ask at the next BoS meeting for citizens wishing to comment to attend the next meeting.

### Minutes

The minutes of the January 9, 2008 were approved unanimously on motions by Diercks, seconded by Price.

### Next meeting

**Tuesday, March 4, 2008, 7 to 9 PM, Millennium Room 4.**

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted by: R. Phillips (draft – January 21, 2008, approved – March 4, 2008)*